



# King Salmon Tribe

People of the Volcano

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Dennis J. McLerran, Regional Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
TELEPHONE: (206)553-1200

Re: Clean Water Act 404(c) process to prohibit certain lands from use as a disposal site for dredged or fill material

VIA Facsimile: (206) 553-2955

Dear Mr. McLerran:

The King Salmon Tribe is a Federally Recognized Tribe by the United States of America. Our home is in King Salmon, Alaska, and near the waters of Bristol Bay up the Naknek River about 13 miles. King Salmon is a place rich in culture and history, with 4000 years of salmon runs going right past our back door.

As Americans, we have some very common and fundamental principles to our existence. One of them is Due Process, partly in the legal tone, but more importantly our rights as citizens. King Salmon seeks Economic Diversity for its people, and economic diversity is crucial to our very existence. Believe us; King Salmon does not want 47% of its population living below the poverty level like our brothers, sisters, and dear friends to the North of us.

Please allow us to show you some facts on our region.

- ✓ King Salmon is about 110 Miles from Nondalton.<sup>i</sup>
- ✓ Nondalton is about 12 miles away from the Pebble Beach.<sup>ii</sup>
- ✓ Nondalton has approximately 47% of its population living below the poverty level.<sup>iii</sup>
- ✓ King Salmon, by comparison, has approximately 13% of its population living below the poverty level.<sup>iv</sup>
- ✓ Since 2000 Nondalton has lost 14% of its population.<sup>v</sup>
- ✓ Since 2000 King Salmon has lost 21.5% of its population.<sup>vi</sup>
- ✓ Since 2000 Dillingham has had a growth in population of 0.32% and its recorded 2010 population was 2476.<sup>vii</sup>

King Salmon Traditional Village Council

Page 1 of 3

The Pebble Limited Partnership has a right to seek the necessary permits for mine development and exploration. The EPA should also consider the issues pointed to earlier, like poverty and the loss of our population. If the EPA is going to listen to the Opponents of Pebble, which are a few very vocal and powerful people, please consider King Salmon's needs also. Please do not kill a project before it even starts, because the numbers speak for themselves.

Simply, a population that works will have a lower percentage of those living in poverty. The more money people make, the better educated their children will become, as we have noticed in our village. It is our job, and not the EPA's, to teach and use subsistence activities, how we choose, to our younger generations. We are a viable people who will adapt to its environment. We are Descendants of Katmai and that means we have been doing this for the past 9,000 years.<sup>viii</sup>

Our environment has not always been seemingly pristine. If you are going to take a specific time, let us say the present, then you have to be able to look at a different time in history. We are talking about the eruption of Novarupta in Katmai in 1912. The amount of pollutants, in the form of sulfur to chlorine compounds, etc., is not new to our environment.<sup>ix</sup> In fact, volcano's like we have near King Salmon can have a global effect, and it is nothing compared to a proposed mine near Nondalton. We roll with the environment, and our culture has stayed intact.

It is not ironic that: "Among all this diversity, Katmai National Park and Preserve is famous for its brown bears and fish populations. Bristol Bay streams, including the Naknek River, are the source of some of the world's largest salmon runs and appear to have been so for about the last 4000 years."<sup>x</sup> Mother Earth can be very forgiving, especially with reclamation of the natural environment.

We will participate in the public hearing process once the State of Alaska, and Federal agencies begin to hold them.

Again, we urge you, the EPA, to withhold any action on the Pebble Project until they have completed their feasibility study and the public hearing process for the project.

Sincerely,

Ralph Angasan, Sr., President  
King Salmon Tribe

King Salmon Tribe References, as noted.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.citymelt.com/city/Alaska/Nondalton+City-AK.html>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=15053463>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.citymelt.com/city/Alaska/Nondalton+City-AK.html>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.citymelt.com/city/Alaska/King+Salmon+Cdp-AK.html>

<sup>v</sup> <http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Nondalton-Alaska.aspx>

<sup>vi</sup> [http://www.bestplaces.net/city/King\\_Salmon-Alaska.aspx](http://www.bestplaces.net/city/King_Salmon-Alaska.aspx)

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.bestplaces.net/city/Dillingham-Alaska.aspx>

<sup>viii</sup> <http://www.nps.gov/katm/historyculture/people.htm>

<sup>ix</sup> [http://climate.envsci.rutgers.edu/pdf/emissions\\_0207.pdf](http://climate.envsci.rutgers.edu/pdf/emissions_0207.pdf)

<sup>x</sup> <http://www.katmai.national-park.com/info.htm>